

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
November 8, 2010**

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Earl S. Beck, PhD	Margaret Nusbaum	Virginia Skelley		Rebecca Hoffman
Rae Ann Butler	Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec			Sherry Greenfield
Cristina Donahue-Taylor	Carolyn True			Ray Brown
Hal Ehart				Kathleen Hutchens
David Gray, Comm				Meg Motter
Millard Haines				Melanie Bryan
Lloyd Hoover				Mary Rice
Diane Julian				Elly Jenkins
Jim Judd				
Ona M. John Kile				
Carol Krimm, Alderman				
Louise Lynch				
Patricia McGill				
Burt Shawver				
Robert Wannemacher				
Stephen Wilhide				

- I. Call to Order – Louise Lynch, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.
- II. Welcome & Introductions – –** Louise welcomed all attendees. Multiple guests were present at today's meeting so introductions were done around the room.

III. Approval of Minutes – - The minutes of the October 4, 2010 meeting were not approved. There was a question regarding the wording of paragraph five, section six. Jim Judd will suggest alternate wording for this section. Minute approval will be deferred to the next meeting.

IV. Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Gray was congratulated on his recent re-election to BoCC office. He would like to remain the liaison for this CoA. The budget continues to be a concern.

Alderman's Report – There are five new members to the MD state delegation and Frederick County delegation. Alderman Krimm suggested that this commission reach out to the new members regarding the issues that affect older adults. The Frederick County Delegation Public Hearing will be held at Winchester Hall to finalize the legislative package on December 11, 2010. This is an open meeting for citizen comment.

V. Discussion with health and social services department representatives concerning their view of unmet needs of older adults in Frederick County, All – Present at today's meeting were the following representatives from local agencies. Ray Brown from Department of Social Services, Meg Motter and Kathy Hutchens from FCHD-AERS program, and Melanie Bryan and Elly Jenkins from the DoA. Each agency representative gave a brief summary of their view on the unmet needs of older adults in Frederick County. They spoke of the services they offer and the waiting lists which accompany those services. Each agency serves as many clients as possible. There are widespread shortages for in-home services, transportation assistance, physicians who accept Medicare, affordable housing, and prescription cost assistance. The lack of funding is the overall factor contributing to the shortages. There are no or very limited services for vision, dental, or hearing issues. Most programs have extensive waiting lists. These programs strive to keep clients in their home as opposed to going to a LTC facility. It is more cost effective for the clients to receive services in their home. One problem is that seniors who are unable to receive services become susceptible to accidents or health incidents which cause them to have potentially unnecessary hospital stays. Some seniors have very minimal level needs and could be helped at low cost.

The Senior Care program and the Medicaid Waiver program are the most cost effective plans which keep seniors in their homes at a low cost with minimal aide care. The 211 referral service is a very effective way for citizens with needs to find services. Often once the senior finds where to get the services, they are not able to make use of them due to waiting lists or funding has been depleted. The MoW program is another helpful service, but there are regional limitations and not all parts of the county are able to receive services. Partner's in Care is a volunteer program which helps many seniors with transportation and

grocery shopping but they are limited by volunteer shortages and lack of funding. It would also be beneficial to have funding which would allow families to take care of seniors instead of LTC placement. Eighty-five percent of Medicaid funding goes for institutional care and only fifteen percent goes to community care.

Collaboration and information sharing between agencies would be extremely helpful in eliminating duplication of services and/or people not receiving services due to incomplete application processes. The USM is aware of many of these issues and will be lobbying for changes. There are very few advocates for senior needs. This commission needs to be involved in rallying for those needs. Now is the time to be involved in the state legislation and budget process. An email or letter to the Governor is one way to voice your concern. Louise will take information with her to the next state CoA meeting.

Volunteer programs are a great way of providing services without the worry of funding. A reputable volunteer program is not easily managed and would need to guidance of a paid volunteer coordinator.

It would be helpful to have representatives from this group of agencies attend this CoA meeting once or twice a year to discuss ongoing issues and possible updates to programs. The Elder Services Provider Council is another resource of service representatives.

- VI. Nominations Committee, Earl Beck,** - The three candidates being recommended to the BoCC for continued membership on this Commission are Raeann Butler, Hal Ehart, and Bob Wannemacher. Jim Judd moved to accept the recommendation and motion was seconded by John Kile. All approved these recommended We will have other vacant positions at the end of this year. John Kile has submitted his resignation from the commission.

USM Report, Ginny Skelley – No report this month. The USM Rally is scheduled for January, 25, 2011. Transportation may be available on a DoA van if enough participates are interested. Let Carolyn or Sue know if you are interested.

Expo Update, All – There was a great turnout for this event despite the inclement weather. This is a great opportunity for commission members to network with participants. The brochure was a great addition this year. A goal for next year would be to have a door prize drawing to attract more interaction.

Update on Senior Forum Questions, RaeAnn Butler – The Senior Forum will be held at the Department of Aging on November 30. It will start at 1:00 and end at approximately 3:00. This event will be advertised locally. The five questions are being finalized and focus on a property tax credit for seniors, transportations issues, crimes and

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financial exploitation, services for seniors, and the needs assessment. Members from this commission will be needed to present the questions. Louise will do an introduction and closing.

- VII. Director's Report, Carolyn True** – A flyer was distributed regarding a Veteran's Recognition Dinner which will be held at the Frederick Senior Center on November 30, 2010. There will be a presentation by Edward Chow, Jr. who is the MD Secretary for Veteran Affairs. The event will begin at 4:45 pm.

Rebecca Hoffman is a Hood intern who has been tabulating the results from the surveys which have been completed and submitted. A total of 503 surveys have been received at this time. Rebecca reviewed her findings with this commission.

- VIII. Executive Committee Report, Hal Ehart** - The Executive Committee met on October 26th. The agenda for today's meeting was discussed. The questions for the Senior Forum were discussed. There was discussion on getting surveys out to Crestwood. The necessary approval for the new members for the commission was discussed. There was also discussion about developing a process and procedure for new members to the commission. There was some discussion regarding the Mt St Mary students and their work with the Friends of MoW group. These students are doing marketing, logo and a newsletter.

- IX. Announcements, All** – Louise has been in touch with MScan which pulls together information and stats. They get their information from the Maryland State DoA which gets their information from the counties. The information from 2010 will be used for the Senior Forum. Louise did get information from Stuart Rosenthal which she can forward to anyone interested. It is a lengthy document. She reviewed some stats from that data.

- X. Adjournment, All** – The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

Frederick County Commission on Aging
11/8/2010

December 7, 2010 - COA Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center

December 13, 2010 - Commission on Aging, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702

January 10, 2011 - Commission on Aging, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702

January 25, 2011 – USM Rally, Annapolis, MD. No snow date.